



# IVS STRIDES



## SCALING NEW HORIZONS

(A State Government University Accredited with "A" Grade by NAAC)

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**Prof. Sonia Khan  
Director (IVS)**

### FROM DIRECTOR'S DESK

**IVS welcomes Prof. Mahavir Singh, Hon. Vice-Chancellor Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla**

This year in 2025, IVS takes pleasure in launching the maiden issue of its Newsletter '**IVS Strides – Scaling New Horizons**'. Henceforth, the Newsletter will be published bi-annually, for Spring and Fall Semester each. The Spring 2025 issue provides a kaleidoscope of snippets of the Institute, its programs and engagements of faculty and students, which have all contributed valuably to creating a distinct identity of the Institute of Vocational Studies, both nationally and internationally. Since its establishment in 1992, over a span of more than three decades, the Institute steadily continues to gain prominence in the academic arena by strengthening its Tourism and Hotel Management programs that aim at offering quality education and training, leading to prestigious placements in the industry and academics. The Institute is proud to produce exemplary entrepreneurs, intellectually oriented scholars and mould potential faculty for academic institutions. As the Institute continues to make its strides towards scaling further horizons, IVS promises to contribute towards enhancing the identity of H.P. University.



**Institution of Vocational Studies (IVS), Faculty**



**IVS Administration**

### FROM CHIEF EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Readers

Greetings from the editorial desk!

**Dr. Vineet Kamal**

**Assist. Prof. IVS (Tourism)**



It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you to the first edition of our newsletter (**IVS- Strides: Scaling New Horizons**). This newsletter focuses on all the academic and administrative activities conducted in the Institute of Vocational Studies from January, 2025 to June 2025. It also highlights the extracurricular milestones like faculty initiatives, student's achievements, field visits, industry exposure and events that enrich the learning environment. May the turning of each page of this newsletter trigger ideas, establish connections and strengthen our shared mission of shaping the future of tourism and hospitality education.

## SPRING TERM ACTIVITIES

### Academics

IVS aims at providing professional knowledge and practical skills in tourism and hospitality management by way of effective teaching and training that can provide an ideal balance between academics and trade skills. To achieve this aim, various academic activities were conducted in Spring 2025.

**Regular Classes:** The academic session commenced on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025 with lectures, tutorials, and practical sessions regularly conducted for various programs including MTTM, FYICTTM, BHM, Ph.D. coursework and generic elective courses offered to students from different departments.

**Curriculum Implementation:** The institute ensured effective delivery of the latest syllabi, aligning with the UGC NET Tourism Management curriculum and National Education Policy guidelines for multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary courses.

**Board of Studies (BOS) Meetings:** IVS was actively engaged in conducting Undergraduate - Board of Studies (UG - BOS) meetings to review and prepare for NEP curriculum to be implemented in the coming years.

**Project Work and Research:** Students were allotted end semester projects under the guidance of their respective mentors and presentations of the research projects were held as a part of the curriculum.

**Examinations and Evaluations:** Mid-term examinations, practical assessments, seminars and students' presentation were conducted during the semester.

**Drug Awareness dissemination:** Students were oriented by teachers regularly against usage of drugs in order to make them aware for inculcating values with respect to a healthy, substance-free lifestyle.

**Final Viva Voce of MTTM, BTM, BHM:** During the Spring session, final viva voce examinations were conducted for German language course, internships and research project reports of MTTM and BTM students. Viva sessions for on-job and industrial training of BHM students were also held during this period.

**Anti-Ragging and Sexual Harassment Redressal Committee Meetings:** Meetings were conducted to review if there were any cases of ragging or harassment in order to ensure a safe, respectful and supportive campus environment while upholding student well-being and dignity.

### STRIDES TEAM

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## Tourism Project

**Professor Chander Mohan Parsheera** led a landmark collaborative project between **UNDP** and the **Government of Himachal Pradesh** to prepare the **State Human Development Report (SHDR)**. The project is one of the first in India to include climate change as a key index assessing its impact on health, agriculture and tourism while offering strategic recommendations for climate-smart & sustainable development.



## Publications

All faculty members of IVS actively contributed to academic publishing through research papers, articles and book chapters.

Notably, **Prof. Nitin Vyas** and **Dr. Priti R. Nagal** enriched tourism research by publishing the following two books:

**Travel 4.0: Artificial Intelligence in Modern Tourism Industry**

**Cultural Geography and Tourism: A Journey Through India's Landscapes.**



**Dr. Navneet Kaushal** has been appointed as Assistant Professor at the esteemed **Indira Gandhi University**, Rewari, Haryana.

## Academia



**Dr. Rajender Kumar**, a distinguished alumnus of IVS, has recently joined the faculty at **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University**, Delhi.



Two of our esteemed scholars, **Dr. Pankaj Sharma** and **Dr. Barjesh Kumari**, have recently joined as faculty members in the School of Hotel Management and Tourism at **Lovely Professional University**



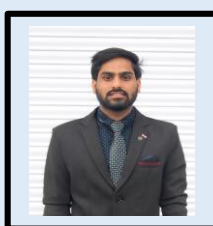


## Entrepreneurship and Industry



The Institute of Vocational Studies (IVS) Tourism proudly congratulates alumnus **Mr. Vikas Kashyap** on his promotion to Deputy Manager (Outbound sales) at **Yatra.com** and **Mr. Pankaj Sharma** on his elevation to Manager – Customer Service at **WebBeds**.

**Mr. Sanjeev Kumar**, an inspiring alumnus of IVS, HPU, started his initiative "**Farm of Dreams**" blending volunteer tourism with sustainable community development in Himachal Pradesh.



During the Spring Session, two of our ex-students **Mr. Sumit Patial** (FYICTTM 2016–21) and **Mr. Sanjay Kumar** (MTTM 2021–23) qualified the prestigious UGC-NET JRF, reflecting their hard work and the invaluable mentorship at IVS.

**IVS  
Students**



**Diya Thakur** (FYICTTM 2020–25) of IVS Tourism, HPU, proudly participated at the **Khelo India Winter Games 2025**, showcasing the multi-talented spirit of IVS students.

## RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT

### Ph.D Viva

The Ph.D. Viva-Voce of Chitra Kapoor, supervised by Prof. Sushma Rewal Chugh was held on 28.02.2025, with Prof. Suman Sharma from CUHP, Dharamshala, as the External Examiner.

The Ph.D. Viva-Voce of Hitesh Bhardwaj supervised by Prof. Sonia Khan, was held on 07.03.2025 through online mode.

Final Ph.D. Viva-Voce of Neeraj Chauhan, supervised by Prof. Sonia Khan was held on 24.05.2025 in the Department's Conference Room with Prof. Ashish Dahiya from MDU, Rohtak, as the External Examiner.

The Ph.D. Viva-Voce of Barjesh Kumari, under the supervision of Prof. Sushma Rewal Chugh was held on 02.04.2025 with Prof. Parikshat Singh Manhas (University of Jammu) as the External Examiner.



## Pre Ph.D Presentation

The Pre-Ph.D. Viva Voce of Mr. Manoj and Mr. Lekh Raj were successfully conducted during the session.

## RDC

The Institute of Vocational Studies held its RDC meeting on April 8 where eight Ph.D. scholars presented their synopses and one got upgraded from JRF to SRF, with external experts Prof. Prashant Gautam, Prof. Lavkush Mishra and Prof. Jai Singh Parmar in attendance.



## COVERING GROUND



To enhance industry exposure, BHM students of IVS visited Hotel Cecil - Oberoi Shimla where they gained practical insights into heritage hospitality operations, service excellence and were also engaged in an interactive session with the hotel's management team.



The 12 to 15-day educational tour across Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Goa held in Jan., 2025 offered students travel trade learning through visits to museums, heritage sites, and nature reserves while also enriching their understanding of diverse cultures and traditions

### Industrial Hotel visit of BHM students

### MTTM Educational Tour - 2025

## Skill Development Programs



### Airlines Ticketing Workshop

An Airlines Ticketing Workshop was organized with **Dr. Sunil Chandel** as the Resource Person and Trainer, offering hands-on training in booking, issuing and managing airline tickets for tourism and travel management students.



### Workshop on Tour Package Designing

A comprehensive workshop on Tour Package Designing was conducted by **Dr. Vineet Kamal** equipping students with practical skills in itinerary planning, costing, and customer-focused package creation along with valuable industry insights.



### South Indian Cuisine Workshop

The BHM - Faculty of IVS organized an engaging South Indian cuisine workshop where students prepared traditional South-Indian dishes like Chicken Chettinad and Coconut Rice while exploring the rich culinary heritage and cultural diversity of the region.

## Special Invited Lectures

•IVS organized insightful guest lecture featuring Mr. Navneet Kaushal (Contracts Manager WebBeds - Asia Pacific) who shared his views on evolving trends in online travel.

Guest lecture on  
online travel



•Mr. Pawan Sharma, founder of Wonder of Himalayas delivered a guest lecture on tourism entrepreneurship highlighting heritage walks and self-employment opportunities.

Guest lecture on  
entrepreneurship



•Dr. Sunil Kumar enriched tourism and travel management students by delivering a lecture on Cargo Management offering students valuable insights into cargo operations, logistics processes and current industry practices.

Guest lecture on  
Cargo Management



## Learning Beyond Walls

Dean of Student Welfare (DSW) office organized a visit for IVS students to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Museum at Chadwick House, Shimla, where they explored the CAG's vital role in ensuring transparency and accountability in India's governance. This visit gave exposure of a unique tourism component to tourism students.



## Cleanliness Drive



As part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, IVS students actively participated in the regular weekly cleanliness drives (on Saturdays) in the IVS engaging them in cleanliness, hygiene and responsible citizenship through maintaining clean public spaces.



## SPREADING WINGS

### Placements



**Prof. Nitin Vyas**  
Placement coordinator

As a regular practice, the Placement Cell at IVS actively connected students with internships and job opportunities in the tourism and hospitality sectors, facilitating student placements in prestigious travel and hospitality organisations, thereby expanding the roots of IVS in travel/hospitality trade fostering collaborations with leading organizations. Under the dynamic guidance of **Professor Nitin Vyas, Head of the Placement Cell**, students from MTTM, FYICTTM and BHM once again secured placements in reputed organization during the semester.



### Travel and Tourism Sector

### Hospitality Sector

## MILEPOSTS AHEAD – (FALL SEMESTER)



### Leadership Development Camp (LDC)

The Institute of Vocational Studies (IVS) Tourism, HPU Shimla will organize a Leadership Development Camp (LDC) for MTM-3rd and FYICTM 3rd semester students in the first week of September.



### Tourism Week Celebration

IVS Tourism will celebrate Tourism Week from 22nd to 27th September, culminating on World Tourism Day. Highlights of the week will include Culture Preservation Exhibitions, Tourism Premier League (TPL-2), Heritage Walks in Shimla, Creative Competitions, Insightful Workshops and Guest Lectures by Industry Experts.



### Trainings and workshops under MERU

Aligning with the vision of NEP 2020, the Institute of Vocational Studies will organize various initiatives under the MERU component of the PM-USHA programme to promote holistic and inclusive education. Key activities will include a training program for unskilled grassroots tourism stakeholders, a women entrepreneurship workshop, skill development sessions on communication and mock interviews, and an awareness programme for Panchayat Pradhans on Rural Sustainable Tourism.



### Placement Drive

The annual internship cum placement drive for MTM, FYICTM and BHM students will commence from mid November for a month to ensure industrial training for all students. The drive will be conducted both in campus (offline mode) and through online mode.

## COURTESY

### MESSAGE FROM MANAGING EDITORS' BOARD

#### Dear Readers of IVS-Strides

Warm greetings from the Scholars and Students of IVS!

We're delighted to bring to you the pioneer edition of **IVS-Strides** — a curated blend of insights, research highlights, and departmental updates. With each issue, we strive to serve a thoughtful mix of knowledge, inspiration, and community spirit that informs and uplifts.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition as much as we enjoyed putting it together. Your feedback and reflections are always welcome!

Best regards,

**Managing Editors' Boards**